GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2107
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2005
PROJECT TIGER
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Project Tiger was launched;

(b) the main objectives behind launching this project;

(c) whether the project tiger has not been successful in achieving its objective;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the further steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Project Tiger was launched on 1St April, 1973.

(b) The objective of the project is to ensure maintenance of a viable population of tigers in India for scientific, economic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values, and to preserve for all times, areas of biological importance as a national heritage for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people.

(c) No Sir. Project Tiger has put the endangered tiger on an assured course of recovery within the designated reserves.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) The Government of India has taken several measures for tiger conservation, which are given at Annexure-1.

ANNEXURE-1

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2107 REGARDING PROJECT TIGER DUE FOR REPLY ON 08.08.2005

1. Ongoing Funding Schemes:

Funding and technical help are provided to states under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Project Tiger", "Assistance to National Parks & Sanctuaries" and "Project Elephant" for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of states to provide effective protection to wild animals including tiger.

2. Legal Measures Taken:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which has been amended and made more stringent.

(ii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

3. Administrative and other Measures:

(i) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-16) has been adopted by the Indian Board for Wildlife under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister in January 2002, which outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(ii) Government of India has set-up regional and subregional offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the

country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

4. International Conventions:

India is signatory to many international conventions relating to biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

5. Bilateral Agreements:

India has bilateral agreements with Nepal and China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

6. Global Tiger Forum:

A Global Tiger Forum of tiger range countries has been created for addressing international issues relating to tiger conservation.

7. Initiatives Taken for eliciting public support:

- Complementary inputs for Ecodevelopment and voluntary village relocation provided earlier in separate projects have now been merged with Project Tiger as an "Umbrella Scheme".

- Under the externally aided "India Eco-development Project", as many as 572 eco-development committees have been formed in seven Protected Areas (which included six Tiger Reserves) covering 75,600 families, to reduce the dependency of local people on Protected Area resources, with reciprocal commitments. An amount of Rs. 15,692.30 lakhs has been provided to States for 6 Tiger Reserves till the completion of this Project in 2004.

8. Constitution of Task Force.

A five member Task Force has been constituted for reviewing the management of Tiger Reserves and to make various measures for improvement.

9. Other Initiatives Taken:

- Eight more potential sites have been identified for Project Tiger coverage.
- "Project Allowance" has been provided under the scheme to field staff working in tiger reserves.
- Regional Monitoring of Tiger Reserves has been undertaken by a group of experts as per the normative standards of the Ministry.
- 100% Central Assistance is provided for deploying anti-poaching strike squads in Tiger Reserves, apart from expenditure relating to research, veterinary, monitoring and evaluation, compensation to the legal heir of staff / person killed while performing duty, and for monitoring of tiger population.
- Information and communication technology is under use for linking important tiger reserves in the GIS Domain for evolving a management support system and crime detection, dissemination of information through web and evolving a 'National Tiger Monitoring and Habitat Evaluation System' with regional protocols.
- The allocation under Project Tiger has been enhanced from Rs. 7500 lakhs in the IX Plan to Rs. 15,000 lakhs in the X Plan.
- Country level appraisal of habitat fragmentation has been done to facilitate restorative inputs.